Discovery of gas in Krishna Godavari basin

1275. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance Industries discovered two more gas discoveries in Krishna Godavari basin recently; and

(b) if so, by when the gas available in these wells will be commercially used?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, M/s Reliance Industries has made 3 more gas discoveries, Dhirubhai-7, Dhirubhai-8 and Dhirubhai-16 in the months of May and August, 2004 respectively, in addition to six previous gas discoveries. Out of the total 9 (nine) gas discoveries, three gas discoveries, namely, Dhirubhai 1, 2 and 3 have been declared commercial. Dhirubhai 1 and 3 were declared commercial on stand-alone basis and Dhirubhai 2 declared commercial if developed either with Dhirubhai 1 or Dhirubhai 3. Subsequently, the development plan has been approved by the Management Committee.

As per the development plan submitted by Operator, commercial gas production may commence by August 2007.

Issue of LOI to allottees

1276. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the delay in the issue of Letter of Intent (LOI) to allottees by petroleum companies for their retail outlets causing commercial losses to these companies;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the inordinate delay in the issue of LOI by HPCL for its retail outlet at Nawabganj, Bareilly;

(c) the action being taken against the officials for the delay on one or the other technical grounds; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the process and cut red tape so that both the allottees and the petroleum companies do not face losses due to the vested interests of the officials?